

Textploitation

David Bowie "Kooks"

Reading:

- 1) Read the song below and discuss the story with your partner. Who is the singer speaking to?
- 2) Do you think he will be a good father?
- 3) What is his attitude towards traditional education?

Kooks by David Bowie

(Chorus x 2)

*Will you stay in our lovers' story
If you stay you won't be sorry
'Cause we believe in you
Soon you'll grow so take a chance
With a couple of Kooks
Hung up on romancing*

*We bought a lot of things
To keep you warm and dry
And a funny old crib on which the paint won't dry
I bought you a pair of shoes
A trumpet you can blow
And a book of rules
On what to say to people
When they pick on you
'Cause if you stay with us you're gonna be pretty
Kookie too*

(Chorus)

Vocabulary:

- 1) Phrasal verb: a little obsessed with –
- 2) Adjective: strange / odd
- 3) Phrasal verb: to bully / to make fun of –
- 4) Adverb: quite –
- 5) Phrasal verb: made a lot of mistakes / ruined something –

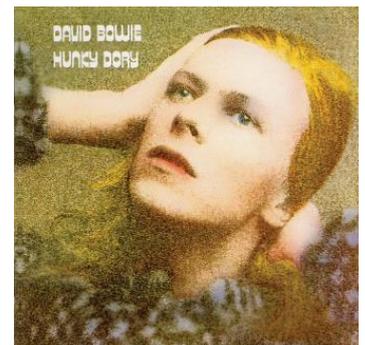
Old-fashioned words:

- 1) Kookie = odd / eccentric
- 2) I'm not much cop = I'm not very good at
- 3) Cads = a playboy

Discussion:

- 1) What do you think of the song?
- 2) Which of the following facts about the song do you think are true:
 - Bowie wrote it to his unborn child.
 - The English band, The Kooks, took their name from this song.
 - Bowie's child was called Zowie but then changed his name to Duncan.
 - That child is now a famous Hollywood director.
- 3) Do you think songs can be used to learn about pronunciation?

*And if you ever have to go to school
Remember how they messed up
This old fool
Don't pick fights with the bullies or the cads
'Cause I'm not much cop at punching other
people's Dads
And if the homework brings you down
Then we'll throw it on the fire
And take the car downtown
(Chorus x 2)*



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Pronunciation (Weak forms)

Listen to the chorus carefully and decide how the following underlined words are pronounced:

Will you stay in our lovers' story
If you stay you won't be sorry
'Cause we believe in you
Soon you'll grow so take a chance
With a couple of Kooks
Hung up on romancing

Are they pronounced as you would imagine? Are they always pronounced the same? Use the examples above to complete the rule below.

Words like _____, _____ and _____ are very often _____ to weak forms in natural speech. We very often use the _____ when pronouncing them.

(articles, schwa, reduced, pronouns, prepositions)

Pronunciation (linking)

Listen to the chorus again, is there any linking between the following words:

Will you stay in our lovers' story
If you stay you won't be sorry
'Cause we believe in you
Soon you'll grow so take a chance
With a couple of Kooks
Hung up on romancing

Using the examples above, complete the rule below:

When one word ends in a _____ sound and the next word begins with a _____ sound, those words are very often _____ in natural spoken English.

Pronunciation / Listening

Read through the song and mark any other words you think might be linked or weak forms. Listen to check.

Language Analysis

Underline all of the uses of "will" and "won't" in the song. How are they being used?

- Requests?
- Future decisions?
- Promises?
- Predictions?